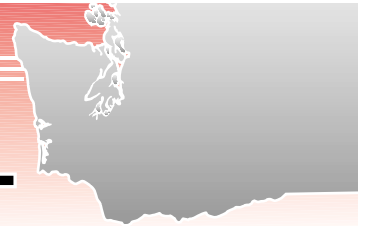


SENATOR ROSEMARY McAULIFFE



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



August 2001

Dear Neighbors:



Last January, I never would have thought that my post-session report would be written in August. As you probably know, at the conclusion of the Legislature's third special session of 2001, we were just one day short of taking the record for the longest legislative session in Washington's history — something we should not be proud of.

We began the year with a grim budget outlook. Drops in revenue, restricted spending and our state's economic downturn put a squeeze on available dollars. We saw higher health-care costs and more students entering our K-12 schools. Our energy crisis, earthquake and drought complicated matters, and Washington's highways were ranked second-worst in the nation for traffic congestion.

On the bright side, you "the people" passed initiatives 728 and 732 that supported student learning, class size reduction, and our teachers and staff with a well-deserved cost of living raise.

While this session has been difficult, we have made some worthwhile gains against tremendous odds. This newsletter highlights some of those gains.

As chair of the Senate Education Committee, I held fast to our state's efforts to improve student learning, support teachers and staff, and keep our schools safe. Although there were some disappointments in these areas, we made progress that will keep our momentum going into the future.

Thank you for all of your letters, phone calls and e-mails. They went a long way in keeping me informed and energized during this very unusual session. Your active role in government is key in helping me represent you effectively.

While the Legislature has wrapped up for the year, I continue to work on your behalf year-round. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if I can be of help.

Sincerely,

Rosemary McAuliffe  
Please Stay in Touch!



*Please Stay in touch!*

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## Excellent Schools, Excellent Learning

When we kicked off this session we had clear goals for public education: reduce class size, continue to improve student learning, support teachers and staff, hold schools accountable for student achievement, and keep our schools safe.

As chair of the Senate Education Committee, I'm pleased that we made strides on all counts by:

- **honoring Initiative 728** with \$393.3 million for smaller classes, before- and after-school learning programs, all-day kindergarten and additional training for educators;
- earmarking an additional \$85.7 million to **reduce class size and provide extended learning programs**;
- **implementing Initiative 732** by giving schools \$318.4 million for **pay raises for teachers and staff**;
- providing scholarships and stipends to **help new teachers earn their teaching certificates**;
- including \$11 million for **math and reading corps programs** to help students struggling in these subjects;
- providing funds to extend for three years the annual **\$3,500 bonus for teachers** who earn certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;
- requiring schools and day-care centers to **notify parents and guardians when pesticides are used** on facilities or grounds; and
- **providing all schools with safety dollars** to keep our children safe.

Two bills I fought hard for this session became hopelessly bogged down in the evenly split House of Representatives. One would have required every school to **establish a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment**. The other would have developed **steps for holding schools accountable for student learning**. These measures were extremely

important to me and to students, parents and teachers around our state. I will continue to work for their passage next year.

In the meantime, funds were set aside in the state budget for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to write a model policy against bullying and harassment, offer anti-harassment training, and provide targeted assistance for struggling schools. My efforts to secure this funding will help future efforts to keep children in our schools safe.

## Transportation Solutions Inch Along

Finding solutions to our state's traffic jams was a major issue this session. With the nation's second-worst congestion right here in Puget Sound, decisive action was sorely needed. Although negotiations were almost as bogged down as some of our freeways, we passed some milestones this year. Measures signed into law will streamline the environmental permitting process for new transportation projects, allow the Department of Transportation to contract with a single company for projects costing more than \$10 million, and create a city and county fund for purchasing right-of-way property before road construction starts — saving time and money.

The Legislature also passed a \$3.4 billion "current law" transportation budget based on existing revenue to maintain roads, highways and other transportation facilities. Unfortunately, that isn't enough to pay for all of the improvements that our clogged roads really need. Despite three special sessions this year, the Senate and House were unable to agree on a 10-year plan to ease gridlock. This has been extremely frustrating and disappointing for everyone. However, the battle is not over. Negotiators will continue to work on ways to clean up Washington's transportation mess and the governor will call legislators back to vote if an

agreement is reached before the next legislative session in January.

As a new member of the Senate Transportation Committee, I was eager to get my feet wet right away. A bill that I sponsored would have integrated transportation and land-use planning on the local level to encourage new growth in existing downtown and pedestrian- and transit-friendly neighborhoods. I also sponsored a measure that would have required the Department of Transportation to use a cost-benefit analysis when considering where to invest in transportation improvements, ensuring that we spend our state transportation dollars wisely. Although these measures passed the Senate on strong bipartisan votes, they did not clear the House. I will continue to press for their passage in 2002.

## Transportation Dollars Make Getting around the 1st District a Little Easier

Here are some of the 29 transportation projects in our area that I helped secure funding for this session:

- ✓ congestion relief for state Route 522, between Interstate 5 and Interstate 405;
- ✓ widening state Route 524 from I-5 to state Route 527, including new bike lanes and sidewalks;
- ✓ continuing to install car-pool lanes and traffic cameras along I-5 from 236th Street to 164th Street;
- ✓ several projects to improve safety along I-5 and make it easier to get on and off the freeway; and
- ✓ new asphalt for sections of state routes 104, 522 and 527.

All told, nearly \$144 million will be spent in the next two years to ease traffic in our area. That means less time on the road — and more time for ourselves and our families.

## Guide Dog Law Protects Animals & Their Owners

Last spring, Mountlake Terrace resident Hy Cohen asked me for help when he had a run-in with his neighbor's dog.

Hy is visually impaired and relies on his guide dog, Layla, to get around. Hy and Layla were repeatedly harassed by a neighbor's dog on the loose, to the point that Hy was unable to leave or return to his home in peace. Layla was traumatized, too, and became afraid of any dog she saw. Of course, this interfered with Layla's job guiding Hy and put them both in danger.

Guide dogs and other service animals play a vital role in the lives of their owners. They are far more than pets – they are the eyes, ears and sometime legs or arms for those with disabilities, who might not be able to lead independent lives without them.

Until now, state law treated guide dogs and other service animals as property. Offenses against them were subject only to property damage laws. Today, with the passage of a measure I sponsored (Senate Bill 5942) called "Layla's Law," guide dogs and service animals are protected from several offenses, including:

- interfering with the use of a guide dog or service animal (now a misdemeanor);
- recklessly injuring, disabling or causing the death of a guide dog or service animal (a gross misdemeanor);
- intentionally injuring, disabling or causing the death of a guide dog or service animal (an unranked class C felony); and
- stealing a guide dog or service animal (first-degree theft).

The law also requires people who commit these crimes to provide restitution to the victims, such as replacing a guide dog, paying veterinary expenses and compensating for lost wages.

I am pleased Hy brought this very important issue to my attention. He deserves a round of applause for his work on the legislation, which will help countless people — and animals — in our state.

## Making an Impact on Government - Youth Council Wraps up an Exciting Year

This session marks the third successful year of the 1st Legislative District Youth Council. I created the group in 1999 to give middle and high school students from our area greater exposure to the Legislature and to provide a first-hand opportunity to make a difference in the law-making process. The council also keeps me in the loop on issues affecting today's young people.

Thirteen teen-agers who live or attend school in the 1st Legislative District took part this year. The council met regularly with me throughout the legislative session to learn about the process in Olympia, track bills, lobby the Legislature and propose ideas for legislation.

The students came to Olympia in March and argued the benefits of several measures that would improve safety in Washington's schools. As an issue that hits very close to home, they dove into their research, interviewed other students for their opinions, analyzed the issue, and presented their own comments directly to Senate and House committees at public hearings and work sessions.

This is a great chance for young people to get real-world experience in the democratic process. As one participant noted, *"The Youth Council takes our education to the next level – we get to do what we are learning (in class). It's a work in progress, but you also see results."*

Other issues the council followed include traffic safety education and weighted grade-point averages. In previous years, the council has spoken out on graduated drivers' licenses and mental health evaluations for minors who commit felonies on school grounds.

If you are interested in joining the 2002 Youth Council, please call my office at 360-786-7600 or the Legislative Hot Line at 1-800-562-6000.



*Members of the 1st Legislative District Youth Council & their Boys & Girls club advisor joined me at a Senate committee hearing to testify on proposed legislation. Thanks to the Kirkland/Northlake Boys & Girls club for supporting the council since 1999!*

## Expanding Access to UW Bothell/Cascadia Community College

The University of Washington's Bothell branch and Cascadia Community College were big winners in the Legislature's capital budget. They received a combined total of \$5 million to improve access to their co-located campus.

Today only one road serves the growing campus, and indirect access slows students and visitors traveling from the south. UW Bothell alone has a 97 percent student retention rate and an annual growth rate in the double

digits. Better access to the campus will enable both institutions to support that kind of growth well into the future, benefitting our community and the entire state.

The \$5 million will pay for engineering, design, permitting and preliminary site preparation for an off ramp from state Route 522. Construction of the ramp, which will improve campus access and reduce university-related congestion in downtown Bothell, is expected to begin in 2003.



### *I want to hear from you!*

Please take a moment to share your comments and concerns. Cut out and place in an envelope and mail to my office:  
PO Box 40401, Olympia, WA 98504-0401

Dear Rosemary,

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Name, address, phone number and e-mail (optional)

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